21.4 IU/kg to about 2.9 x 10^4 IU/kg, where said amount is less ~~than an amount which~~ induces a pathological response in the mammal when administered parenterally.

~~3.~~ 2. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the effective amount [dose] of interferon is administered in a single dose.

~~4.~~ 3. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the effective amount [dose] of interferon is administered in a plurality of [smaller doses] lesser amounts over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single [dose] administration of said effective amount.

~~5.~~ 4. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the amount [dose] of interferon is administered continuously over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single [dose] administration of said effective amount.

~~6. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the amount [total dose] of interferon is from about [5000 IU to about 20 x 10^6 IU] 71.4 IU/kg to about 2.9 x 10^4 IU/kg of interferon.~~

~~7.~~ 5. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the amount [dose] of interferon is from about [1 x 10^4IU to about 20 x 10^6 IU] 142.9 IU/kg/day to about 2.9 x 10^4 IU/kg/day of interferon.

~~8.~~ 6. (Amended) A method of claim 1 in which the amount [dose] of interferon is from about from about [1 x 10^4 IU to about 1 x 10^6] 142.9 IU/kg/day to about 1.4 x 10^4 IU/kg/day of interferon.

~~9.~~ 7. (Amended) A method of claim 1 further comprising the co-administration of other cytokines or interferon inducers.

15. (Amended) Interferon composition in unit dosage form to stimulate host defense mechanisms in a mammal which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the interferon adapted for oromucosal contact, said amount being from about 1500 IU to about 20 x 10^6 IU, provided said amount does not induce a pathological response in the mammal when administered parenterally.